

WASHINGTON, DC –Congressman Tim Ryan (OH-17) announced today that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is **now accepting applications** under the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009 **Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grant Program** (SAFER). These funds assist district fire departments with recruitment and retention of volunteer firefighters who are involved with, or trained in, the operations of firefighting and emergency response.

“With unavoidable budget restraints and possible layoffs, these funds come at a crucial time for our local emergency responders,” said Congressman Ryan. “Realizing that federal funds will not eliminate all local budgetary problems, this money can help increase services and reduce some of the pain local communities are going through.”

According to FEMA, the grants increase the number of trained, certified, and competent firefighters capable of safely responding to emergencies likely to occur in our local communities. One hundred percent of the actual salary and benefits for the SAFER-funded firefighters will be fully funded for the two-year period of performance.

From his seat on the Appropriations Committee, Congressman Ryan was able to secure report language in the FY2010 Homeland Security Appropriations bill that encouraged FEMA to factor in the level of layoffs and unemployment in the prioritization process of awarding SAFER grants. Congressman Ryan added the language to help boost the prospects of applications from economically struggling 17th District communities.

The application period for the FY 2009 SAFER Program opened Monday, November 16, 2009 and will close on Friday, December 18, 2009 at 5:00 p.m. EDT. For more information about the SAFER Guidance Program and how to apply for these funds please click [here](#).

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